

O you that hear this voice

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius
[Soprano]
The first singing part

Medius
[Alto]

Contratenor
[Tenor]

Tenor
[Tenor]

Bassus
[Bass]

O you, that hear this voice, O you that see this

O you, O you that hear this voice, O you

O you that hear this voice, O you that hear this voice, O

O you, that hear this voice, O you that see this face, this

O you, that hear this voice, O you that

face, say whe - ther of the choice, may have the for - mer

that see this face, say whe - ther of the choice, may

you that see this face, this face, say whe - ther of the choice,

face, say whe - ther of the choice, may

see this face, say whe - ther of the choice, may have the for - mer

place. Who dare judge this de - bate,

have the for - mer place: Who

may have the for - mer place: Who dare judge this de - bate, who

have the for - mer place: Who dare judge this de - bate, who

place, the for - mer place: Who dare judge this de - bate, who

10

that it be void of hate?

dare judge this de - bate, that it be void of hate, of

dare judge this de - bate, that it be void of

dare judge this de - bate, that it be void of hate, that it be void of

dare judge this de - bate, that it be void of hate, that it be void of

[o → o.]

This side doth beau - ty take, for that doth

hate? This side doth beau - ty take, this side doth beau - ty take, for that

hate? This side doth beau - ty take, doth beau - ty take,

hate? This side doth beau - ty take, for that doth

hate? This side doth beau - ty take, for that, for that doth

Mu - sic speak, fit O - ra - tors to make,

doth Mu - sic speak, doth Mu - sic speak, fit O - ra - tors to

for that doth Mu - sic speak, fit O - ra - tors to

Mu - sic speak, for that doth Mu - sic speak, fit O - ra - tors to

Mu - sic speak, for that doth Mu - sic speak, Mu - sic speak, fit O -

20

the strong - est judge - ments weak.

make, to _____ make, the strong - est judge - ments weak, *the strong - est*

make, to _____ make, the strong - est judge - ments weak, *the strong -*

make, the strong - est judge - ments weak, *the strong -*

-ra - tors to make, the strong - est judge - ments weak, *the strong -*

The bar to plead their right,

judge - ments weak. The bar to plead their right, their right, is on -

-est judge - ments weak. The bar to plead their right, their right,

-est judge - ments weak. The bar to plead their right, is on - ly

-est judge - ments weak. The bar to plead their right, their right, is

is on - ly true de - light.

-ly true de - light, true de - light, is on - ly true de -

is on - ly true de - light, is on - ly true de -

true de - light, is on - ly true de - light, is on - ly true de -

on - ly true de - light, de - light, is on - ly true de -

The bar to plead their right,

-light. The bar to plead their right, their right,

-light. The bar to plead their

-light. The bar to plead their right, is

-light. The bar to plead their right, their

30

is on - - ly true de - -

is on - - ly true de - light, true de -

right, their right, is on - - ly true de - - light,

on - - ly true de - light, is on - ly true de -

right, is on - - ly true de - light, de - -

-light.

-light, is on - ly true de - light, true de - light.

is on - - ly true de - light, true de - - light.

-light, is on - ly true de - - light.

-light, is on - ly true de - - light.

Source: William Byrd, *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (London, 1588), no.16.
Text: Sir Philip Sidney (1554-86): The Sixt Song from *Astrophel and Stella*.

IV.6.2: *this*

16: *ts* \in , *all parts*

This song, and the odd number of verses printed in the partbooks, presents the clearest evidence that Byrd did not intend all the printed verses to be sung.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. O You, that heare this voyce,
O you that see this face,
say whether of the choice,
may have the former place.
Who dare judge this debate,
that it be void of hate: | 6. Love more affected seemes,
to beauties lovely light,
and wonder more esteemes,
of Musick wond'rous might,
but both to both so bent,
as both in both are spent. |
| 2. This side doth beautie take,
for that doth Musick speak,
fit Orators to make,
the strongest judgements weak.
The bar to plead their right,
is onely true delight. | 7. Musicke doth wnesse call,
the eare his truth doth trye:
Beautie brings to the hall,
eye wnesse of the eye,
each in his object such,
as none exceptions touch. |
| 3. Thus doth the voyce and face,
these gentle lawiers wage:
like loving brothers case*,
for fathers heritage:
that each, while each contends,
it selfe to other lends. | 8. The comon sense which might,
bee arbiter of this:
to bee forsooth upright,
to both sides parciall is:
he layes on this chiefe praise,
chiefe praise on that hee laies. |
| 4. For beautie beautifies,
with heavenly hew and grace,
the heavenly harmonies,
and in that faultlesse face,
the perfect beauties bee,
a perfect harmonie. | 9. Then Reason, princesse hie,
which sits in throne of minde:
and Musicke can in Skye,
with hidden beauties finde,
say whether thou wilt crowne,
with limit lesse renowne. |
| 5. Musicke more loftie swells,
in phrases finely plac'd:
Beautie as farre excells,
in action aptly grac'd:
a friend each partie drawes,
to countenance his cause. | |

* *cast* in all editions, all partbooks